

Message Text

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ACTION EA-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 INR-01 PRS-01 /005 W

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O R 290940Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4740

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

SECDEF WASHDC

UNCLAS PHNOM PENH 1370

USINFO ALSO FOR VOA NEWX

OOM

USINFO ALSO FOR IEA

BANGKOK FOR HEDGES

BANGKOK AND SAIGON FOR VOA CORRESPONDENTS

STATE S/PRS AND EA/P

CAMBODIAN SITUATIONER

1. FIGHTING CONTINUES SOUTH OF PHNOM PENH AS GOVERNMENT FORCES ATTEMPT TO RE-ESTABLISH THE PREK THANOT RIVER AS THE CAPITAL'S DEFENSE LINE. FANK REPORTS ENEMY CASUALTIES OF 39 KILLED IN THE PREK THANOT ACTION SINCE JANUARY 27 WHILE ADMITTING MODERATE FANK LOSSES. GOVERNMENT SOURCES SAY THEY CAPTURED MANY WEAPONS INCLUDING B-41 ROCKET LAUNCHERS SO NEW THAT TRACES OF COSMOLINE IN WHICH THEY HAD BEEN PACKED COULD STILL BE FOUND.

2. THE NUMBER OF WOUNDED IN THE COMMUNIST SHELLING OF PHNOM PENH MONDAY MORNING HAS RISEN FROM 8 TO 14 AS MORE COMPLETE REPORTS COME IN. FOUR PEOPLE, ALL CIVILIANS, DIED IN THE SHELLINGS. THE PAST 24 HOURS HAS SEEN NO NEW ATTACKS AGAINST PHNOM PENH.

3. IN ACTION IN THE NORTHWEST PROVINCE OF ODDAR MEANCHEY, GOVERNMENT TROOPS MONDAY MORNING KILLED SEVEN COMMUNIST SOLDIERS

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WHILE TAKING MODERATE LOSSES THEMSELVES.

4. COMMUNIST GUNNERS FIRED 8 ROUNDS OF 75MM RECOILLESS RIFLE

FIRE AT GOVERNMENT POSITIONS THREE KILOMETERS TO THE EAST OF KAMPOT, WHICH IS SITUATED NEAR THE GULF OF THAILAND.

5. IN OTHER ACTION ON THE EAST BANK OF THE BASSAC SOUTHEAST OF TAKHMAN, ENEMY ATTACKS BY FIRE CONTINUED ON FRIENDLY POSITIONS WITH LIGHT DAMAGE REPORTED. AND NORTHWEST OF PHNOM PENH, FANK REPORTS SEVERAL ATTACKS MONDAY BY ENEMY 75MM AND 105MM ARTILLERY CAUSING LIGHT CASUALTIES.

THERE WERE NUMEROUS OTHER CONTACTS WITH ENEMY FORCES IN THE REPUBLIC ON MONDAY INCLUDING A COMMUNIST GROUND ASSAULT

AGAINST TWO FANK POSITIONS NORTH AND SOUTH OF ROUTE 4 NEAR TALAT. THE GOVERNMENT TROOPS CALLED IN AIR SUPPORT WHICH FORCED THE ENEMY TO WITHDRAW.

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